



## North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Division of Social Services

325 North Salisbury Street • Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2406  
Courier # 56-20-25

Michael F. Easley, Governor  
Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary

Pheon E. Beal, Director  
(919) 733-3055

November 24, 2003

### **DEAR COUNTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

**SUBJECT:**            Annual Child Welfare Caseload Survey

Once again it is time to conduct our Annual Child Welfare Caseload Survey. With the recent attention being given to Child Welfare (e.g. a series of news articles on child fatalities in North Carolina), this year's survey is crucial. Currently a House Committee on CPS is studying issues in Child Welfare and the results of this year's survey will help with their work. Some of the questions included in this survey are as a direct result of a request from the House Committee on CPS leadership. This data is also available to be shared with the legislature, media, and advocacy groups. The data is also used for federal reporting requirements and may be used in decisions regarding the distribution of funds.

This year's survey focuses on the delivery of core child welfare services, but also questions have been added to capture feedback from counties on the universal screening question related to Domestic Violence and inquires into your collaboration with law enforcement around the issue of criminal record checks. A set of definitions/ instructions is included with each page of the survey to aid in completion.

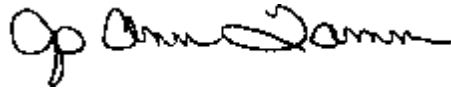
The Division is aware of another staffing survey being conducted by the Office of State Personnel. In late October, County Departments of Social Services were asked to provide the Office of State Personnel with data by using an on-line compensation survey. This survey is being conducted in an attempt to address high turnover in Child Welfare positions. The deadline for submitting data was November 14, 2003. We trust that all counties were able to meet this deadline. The Division is working closely with the Office of State Personnel. We remain hopeful that the results of this survey will provide data necessary to aid in system improvement.

The Division would like to thank all of you for your understanding and support of our data collection process. We recognize that these are challenging times when there are many requests for data but this is a real opportunity to provide the necessary information to key stakeholders

who may offer assistance to child welfare issues. The collection of useful data is a critical piece necessary for capturing our needs, and identifying presenting issues and barriers. Your Children's Program Representative (CPR) is available to assist with the survey process as needed.

In order to compile the data in a timely manner, please complete the survey and return it to Keith Davis at 325 North Salisbury Street, MSC 2406, Raleigh, NC, 27699-2406 no later than December 23, 2003. Thank you for your participation in this important endeavor. If you have any questions, please call your CPR or Keith Davis at (919) 733-7831.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jo Ann Lamm". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Jo Ann Lamm, Program Administrator  
Family Support and Child Welfare Services Section

JAL/kd

cc: Pheon Beal  
Sherry Bradsher  
Children's Services Team Leaders  
CPRs

**FSCWS-32-03**